In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A bio-stable hydrogel comprising about 0.5 to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, the polymer consisting essentially of a polymer prepared by polymerizing ~~from combining~~ acrylamide in the presence of a cross-linking agent and washing the polymer with water or an aqueous solution, ~~and methylene bis-acrylamide,~~ wherein said biostable hydrogel is a substantially homogenous formulation in a form suitable for the treatment of incontinence or vesicouretal reflux and wherein said bio-stable hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units.

2. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein said polymer ~~of acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide~~ is obtained by combining the acrylamide and ~~the methylene bis-acrylamide~~ cross-linking agent in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

3. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

4. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

5. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

6. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, for use in the treatment of incontinence.

7. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 42, further comprising at least 75% by weight water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating incontinence or vesicouretal reflux comprising administering a hydrogel to a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5 to 25% by weight, based on

the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and ~~methylene-bis-acrylamide~~ a cross-linking agent; and wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, wherein said hydrogel is a substantially homogenous formulation.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel is obtainable by combining acrylamide and methylene-bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1. -

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include
injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra for the treatment of urinary incontinence;
injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the colon or rectum for the treatment of anal incontinence; or
injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the ureter for the treatment of vesicouretal reflux.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the inclusion of cells.

18. (Previously presented) A prosthetic device for increasing the resistance of conduits comprising a urethra, a rectum, a colon, or a ureter wherein said device is injectable and comprises a hydrogel as defined in any of claims 1 to 7.

19. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, further comprising cells.

20. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

24. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, comprising at least 1.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The biostable hydrogel composition of claim 42, wherein washing is done with water.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the ureter, urethra or *analis canalis*.

39. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the cells include stem cells.

40. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the ureter, urethra or *analis canalis*.

41. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the device increases the resistance of the urethra to treat urinary incontinence, increases the resistance of the rectum or colon to treat anal incontinence or increases the resistance of the ureter to treat vesicouretal reflux.

42. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 which is made under the conditions of radical initiation and washing with water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

43. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 42 comprising at least 85% by weight water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

44. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 comprising at least 90% by weight water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

45. (Currently amended) The hydrogel according to claim 1 comprising at least 95% by weight water or ~~saline~~ aqueous solution.

46. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, having a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas.

47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas.

48. (Previously presented) The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein incontinence is selected from the group consisting of urinary and anal incontinence.

49. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein incontinence is selected from the group consisting of urinary and anal incontinence.

50. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is methylene-bis-acrylamide.

51. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the cross-linking agent is methylene-bis-acrylamide.

52. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is substantially comprised of cross-linked polyacrylamide.

53. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polymer consists essentially of a polymer prepared by polymerizing acrylamide in the presence of a cross-linking agent.

54. (New) A method of treating incontinence or vesicouretal reflux comprising directly injecting a hydrogel into at least one of the conduits selected from the group consisting of the urethra, ureter, rectum, and colon, wherein the hydrogel comprises water or aqueous solution and about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer having fewer than 50 ppm monomer units, the polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and a cross-linking agent.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution and the cross-linking agent is methylene-bis-acrylamide.

56. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 7, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

57. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

58. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 42 wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

59. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 43, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

60. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 44, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

61. (New) The hydrogel according to claim 45, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.